



## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Jared Huffman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Huffman:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

We are pleased to share EPA's Draft *National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution*.<sup>1</sup> This Strategy will identify the actions that are needed to help the United States achieve the goal to eliminate the discharge of plastics into the environment by 2040.

In addition to the Draft Strategy, EPA continues to work on various projects throughout the Agency to address threats to human health and the environment from plastic-related pollution, including:

- In 2021, the EPA launched the *National Recycling Strategy: Part One of a Series on Building a Circular Economy for All*.<sup>2</sup> This strategy highlights the actions needed from all levels of government, industry, and other stakeholders to transform our recycling system.
- The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provided EPA with \$350 million in funding to support grant programs for solid waste management infrastructure and recycling education and outreach.
- In FY23, EPA expects to award close to \$140 million of the total \$350 million in the first round of IIJA grants to begin to implement the *National Recycling Strategy* and to improve solid waste management infrastructure, increase reuse, recycling and composting rates, and improve consumer education and outreach on recycling materials, including plastics.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/circulareconomy/draft-national-strategy-prevent-plastic-pollution>

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- Moreover, over the next several months, EPA will release several Save Our Seas 2.0 Act reports for public comment, which will focus on opportunities for innovative uses of plastic waste, eliminating barriers to increase the collection of recyclable materials, promoting economic incentives to spur development of new end-use markets, and minimizing the creation of new plastic waste.
- EPA's Trash Free Waters program is implementing a pilot project, in partnership with NGOs, academics, and private partners, to launch reusable foodware systems in four smaller cities around the United States. The pilot is providing technical and financial assistance. Lessons learned from this project will be shared with other cities.
- The Agency is currently considering the comments received on a provision to remove pyrolysis/combustion units from the definition of "municipal waste combustion units" that was included in the 2020 proposed Other Solid Waste Incineration rule, and we intend to issue a future supplemental notice.
- Under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), EPA is evaluating the risk of several chemicals used as plasticizers, including seven phthalate chemicals. Should EPA determine that any of these chemicals present an unreasonable risk, EPA will issue a risk management rule to address such risk. In addition, recognizing that people may be exposed to more than one plasticizer chemical at the same time, EPA has submitted for independent, expert review a framework for conducting a cumulative risk assessment on six of the seven phthalate chemicals undergoing TSCA evaluation where common characteristics have been identified.

EPA is a global leader in efforts to address the challenges posed by plastic pollution, and we believe that by supporting efforts to build a circular economy and addressing plastics through the IIJA and the Save Our Seas Act 2.0, EPA's work will benefit the environment, the economy, and our most vulnerable communities. We look forward to working with you and continuing to make progress on this important issue.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Meredith Comnes in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [comnes.meredith@epa.gov](mailto:comnes.meredith@epa.gov) or (202) 564-3193.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Barry N. Breen", followed by a horizontal line.

Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Cory A. Booker  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Booker:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

We are pleased to share EPA's Draft *National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution*.<sup>3</sup> This Strategy will identify the actions that are needed to help the United States achieve the goal to eliminate the discharge of plastics into the environment by 2040.

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Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Meredith Comnes in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [comnes.meredith@epa.gov](mailto:comnes.meredith@epa.gov) or (202) 564-3193.

Sincerely,



Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Merkley:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

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Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Emanuel Cleaver, II  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Cleaver:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

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Sincerely,



Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Rashida Tlaib  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Tlaib:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

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Sincerely,



Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Ro Khanna  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Khanna:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

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Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Raul M. Grijalva  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Grijalva:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

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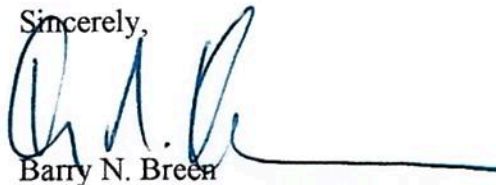
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Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Mark Takano  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Takano:

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Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Meredith Comnes in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [comnes.meredith@epa.gov](mailto:comnes.meredith@epa.gov) or (202) 564-3193.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Barry N. Breen", followed by a horizontal line.

Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Ted W. Lieu  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Lieu:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

We are pleased to share EPA's Draft *National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution*.<sup>17</sup> This Strategy will identify the actions that are needed to help the United States achieve the goal to eliminate the discharge of plastics into the environment by 2040.

In addition to the Draft Strategy, EPA continues to work on various projects throughout the Agency to address threats to human health and the environment from plastic-related pollution, including:

- In 2021, the EPA launched the *National Recycling Strategy: Part One of a Series on Building a Circular Economy for All*.<sup>18</sup> This strategy highlights the actions needed from all levels of government, industry, and other stakeholders to transform our recycling system.
- The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provided EPA with \$350 million in funding to support grant programs for solid waste management infrastructure and recycling education and outreach.
- In FY23, EPA expects to award close to \$140 million of the total \$350 million in the first round of IIJA grants to begin to implement the *National Recycling Strategy* and to improve solid waste management infrastructure, increase reuse, recycling and composting rates, and improve consumer education and outreach on recycling materials, including plastics.

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<sup>17</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/circulareconomy/draft-national-strategy-prevent-plastic-pollution>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/circulareconomy/national-recycling-strategy>

- Moreover, over the next several months, EPA will release several Save Our Seas 2.0 Act reports for public comment, which will focus on opportunities for innovative uses of plastic waste, eliminating barriers to increase the collection of recyclable materials, promoting economic incentives to spur development of new end-use markets, and minimizing the creation of new plastic waste.
- EPA's Trash Free Waters program is implementing a pilot project, in partnership with NGOs, academics, and private partners, to launch reusable foodware systems in four smaller cities around the United States. The pilot is providing technical and financial assistance. Lessons learned from this project will be shared with other cities.
- The Agency is currently considering the comments received on a provision to remove pyrolysis/combustion units from the definition of "municipal waste combustion units" that was included in the 2020 proposed Other Solid Waste Incineration rule, and we intend to issue a future supplemental notice.
- Under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), EPA is evaluating the risk of several chemicals used as plasticizers, including seven phthalate chemicals. Should EPA determine that any of these chemicals present an unreasonable risk, EPA will issue a risk management rule to address such risk. In addition, recognizing that people may be exposed to more than one plasticizer chemical at the same time, EPA has submitted for independent, expert review a framework for conducting a cumulative risk assessment on six of the seven phthalate chemicals undergoing TSCA evaluation where common characteristics have been identified.

EPA is a global leader in efforts to address the challenges posed by plastic pollution, and we believe that by supporting efforts to build a circular economy and addressing plastics through the IIJA and the Save Our Seas Act 2.0, EPA's work will benefit the environment, the economy, and our most vulnerable communities. We look forward to working with you and continuing to make progress on this important issue.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Meredith Comnes in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [comnes.meredith@epa.gov](mailto:comnes.meredith@epa.gov) or (202) 564-3193.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. N. Breen", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Julia Brownley  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Brownley:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

We are pleased to share EPA's Draft *National Strategy Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution*.<sup>19</sup> This Strategy will identify the actions that are needed to help the United States achieve the goal to eliminate the discharge of plastics into the environment by 2040.

In addition to the Draft Strategy, EPA continues to work on various projects throughout the Agency to address threats to human health and the environment from plastic-related pollution, including:

- In 2021, the EPA launched the *National Recycling Strategy: Part One of a Series on Building a Circular Economy for All*.<sup>20</sup> This strategy highlights the actions needed from all levels of government, industry, and other stakeholders to transform our recycling system.
- The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provided EPA with \$350 million in funding to support grant programs for solid waste management infrastructure and recycling education and outreach.
- In FY23, EPA expects to award close to \$140 million of the total \$350 million in the first round of IIJA grants to begin to implement the *National Recycling Strategy* and to improve solid waste management infrastructure, increase reuse, recycling and composting rates, and improve consumer education and outreach on recycling materials, including plastics.

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<sup>20</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/circulareconomy/national-recycling-strategy>

- Moreover, over the next several months, EPA will release several Save Our Seas 2.0 Act reports for public comment, which will focus on opportunities for innovative uses of plastic waste, eliminating barriers to increase the collection of recyclable materials, promoting economic incentives to spur development of new end-use markets, and minimizing the creation of new plastic waste.
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EPA is a global leader in efforts to address the challenges posed by plastic pollution, and we believe that by supporting efforts to build a circular economy and addressing plastics through the IIJA and the Save Our Seas Act 2.0, EPA's work will benefit the environment, the economy, and our most vulnerable communities. We look forward to working with you and continuing to make progress on this important issue.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Meredith Comnes in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [comnes.meredith@epa.gov](mailto:comnes.meredith@epa.gov) or (202) 564-3193.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. N. Breen", followed by a horizontal line.

Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Norton:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

We are pleased to share EPA's Draft *National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution*.<sup>21</sup> This Strategy will identify the actions that are needed to help the United States achieve the goal to eliminate the discharge of plastics into the environment by 2040.

In addition to the Draft Strategy, EPA continues to work on various projects throughout the Agency to address threats to human health and the environment from plastic-related pollution, including:

- In 2021, the EPA launched the *National Recycling Strategy: Part One of a Series on Building a Circular Economy for All*.<sup>22</sup> This strategy highlights the actions needed from all levels of government, industry, and other stakeholders to transform our recycling system.
- The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provided EPA with \$350 million in funding to support grant programs for solid waste management infrastructure and recycling education and outreach.
- In FY23, EPA expects to award close to \$140 million of the total \$350 million in the first round of IIJA grants to begin to implement the *National Recycling Strategy* and to improve solid waste management infrastructure, increase reuse, recycling and composting rates, and improve consumer education and outreach on recycling materials, including plastics.

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<sup>22</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/circulareconomy/national-recycling-strategy>

- Moreover, over the next several months, EPA will release several Save Our Seas 2.0 Act reports for public comment, which will focus on opportunities for innovative uses of plastic waste, eliminating barriers to increase the collection of recyclable materials, promoting economic incentives to spur development of new end-use markets, and minimizing the creation of new plastic waste.
- EPA's Trash Free Waters program is implementing a pilot project, in partnership with NGOs, academics, and private partners, to launch reusable foodware systems in four smaller cities around the United States. The pilot is providing technical and financial assistance. Lessons learned from this project will be shared with other cities.
- The Agency is currently considering the comments received on a provision to remove pyrolysis/combustion units from the definition of "municipal waste combustion units" that was included in the 2020 proposed Other Solid Waste Incineration rule, and we intend to issue a future supplemental notice.
- Under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), EPA is evaluating the risk of several chemicals used as plasticizers, including seven phthalate chemicals. Should EPA determine that any of these chemicals present an unreasonable risk, EPA will issue a risk management rule to address such risk. In addition, recognizing that people may be exposed to more than one plasticizer chemical at the same time, EPA has submitted for independent, expert review a framework for conducting a cumulative risk assessment on six of the seven phthalate chemicals undergoing TSCA evaluation where common characteristics have been identified.

EPA is a global leader in efforts to address the challenges posed by plastic pollution, and we believe that by supporting efforts to build a circular economy and addressing plastics through the IIIA and the Save Our Seas Act 2.0, EPA's work will benefit the environment, the economy, and our most vulnerable communities. We look forward to working with you and continuing to make progress on this important issue.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Meredith Comnes in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [comnes.meredith@epa.gov](mailto:comnes.meredith@epa.gov) or (202) 564-3193.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. N. Breen", followed by a horizontal line.

Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Adriano Espaillat  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Espaillat:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

We are pleased to share EPA's Draft *National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution*.<sup>23</sup> This Strategy will identify the actions that are needed to help the United States achieve the goal to eliminate the discharge of plastics into the environment by 2040.

In addition to the Draft Strategy, EPA continues to work on various projects throughout the Agency to address threats to human health and the environment from plastic-related pollution, including:

- In 2021, the EPA launched the *National Recycling Strategy: Part One of a Series on Building a Circular Economy for All*.<sup>24</sup> This strategy highlights the actions needed from all levels of government, industry, and other stakeholders to transform our recycling system.
- The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provided EPA with \$350 million in funding to support grant programs for solid waste management infrastructure and recycling education and outreach.
- In FY23, EPA expects to award close to \$140 million of the total \$350 million in the first round of IIJA grants to begin to implement the *National Recycling Strategy* and to improve solid waste management infrastructure, increase reuse, recycling and composting rates, and improve consumer education and outreach on recycling materials, including plastics.

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<sup>24</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/circulareconomy/national-recycling-strategy>

- Moreover, over the next several months, EPA will release several Save Our Seas 2.0 Act reports for public comment, which will focus on opportunities for innovative uses of plastic waste, eliminating barriers to increase the collection of recyclable materials, promoting economic incentives to spur development of new end-use markets, and minimizing the creation of new plastic waste.
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EPA is a global leader in efforts to address the challenges posed by plastic pollution, and we believe that by supporting efforts to build a circular economy and addressing plastics through the IIJA and the Save Our Seas Act 2.0, EPA's work will benefit the environment, the economy, and our most vulnerable communities. We look forward to working with you and continuing to make progress on this important issue.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Meredith Comnes in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [comnes.meredith@epa.gov](mailto:comnes.meredith@epa.gov) or (202) 564-3193.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. N. Breen", followed by a horizontal line.

Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Sean Casten  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Casten:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

We are pleased to share EPA's Draft *National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution*.<sup>25</sup> This Strategy will identify the actions that are needed to help the United States achieve the goal to eliminate the discharge of plastics into the environment by 2040.

In addition to the Draft Strategy, EPA continues to work on various projects throughout the Agency to address threats to human health and the environment from plastic-related pollution, including:

- In 2021, the EPA launched the *National Recycling Strategy: Part One of a Series on Building a Circular Economy for All*.<sup>26</sup> This strategy highlights the actions needed from all levels of government, industry, and other stakeholders to transform our recycling system.
- The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provided EPA with \$350 million in funding to support grant programs for solid waste management infrastructure and recycling education and outreach.
- In FY23, EPA expects to award close to \$140 million of the total \$350 million in the first round of IIJA grants to begin to implement the *National Recycling Strategy* and to improve solid waste management infrastructure, increase reuse, recycling and composting rates, and improve consumer education and outreach on recycling materials, including plastics.

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<sup>25</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/circulareconomy/draft-national-strategy-prevent-plastic-pollution>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/circulareconomy/national-recycling-strategy>

- Moreover, over the next several months, EPA will release several Save Our Seas 2.0 Act reports for public comment, which will focus on opportunities for innovative uses of plastic waste, eliminating barriers to increase the collection of recyclable materials, promoting economic incentives to spur development of new end-use markets, and minimizing the creation of new plastic waste.
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Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Meredith Comnes in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [comnes.meredith@epa.gov](mailto:comnes.meredith@epa.gov) or (202) 564-3193.

Sincerely,



Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Nadler:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

We are pleased to share EPA's Draft *National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution*.<sup>27</sup> This Strategy will identify the actions that are needed to help the United States achieve the goal to eliminate the discharge of plastics into the environment by 2040.

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<sup>28</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/circulareconomy/national-recycling-strategy>

- Moreover, over the next several months, EPA will release several Save Our Seas 2.0 Act reports for public comment, which will focus on opportunities for innovative uses of plastic waste, eliminating barriers to increase the collection of recyclable materials, promoting economic incentives to spur development of new end-use markets, and minimizing the creation of new plastic waste.
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Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Meredith Comnes in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [comnes.meredith@epa.gov](mailto:comnes.meredith@epa.gov) or (202) 564-3193.

Sincerely,

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Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Bonamici:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

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Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Meredith Comnes in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [comnes.meredith@epa.gov](mailto:comnes.meredith@epa.gov) or (202) 564-3193.

Sincerely,



Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Mike Quigley  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Quigley:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

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- Moreover, over the next several months, EPA will release several Save Our Seas 2.0 Act reports for public comment, which will focus on opportunities for innovative uses of plastic waste, eliminating barriers to increase the collection of recyclable materials, promoting economic incentives to spur development of new end-use markets, and minimizing the creation of new plastic waste.
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EPA is a global leader in efforts to address the challenges posed by plastic pollution, and we believe that by supporting efforts to build a circular economy and addressing plastics through the IIJA and the Save Our Seas Act 2.0, EPA's work will benefit the environment, the economy, and our most vulnerable communities. We look forward to working with you and continuing to make progress on this important issue.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Meredith Comnes in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [comnes.meredith@epa.gov](mailto:comnes.meredith@epa.gov) or (202) 564-3193.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. N. Breen", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Lloyd Doggett  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Doggett:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

We are pleased to share EPA's Draft *National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution*.<sup>33</sup> This Strategy will identify the actions that are needed to help the United States achieve the goal to eliminate the discharge of plastics into the environment by 2040.

In addition to the Draft Strategy, EPA continues to work on various projects throughout the Agency to address threats to human health and the environment from plastic-related pollution, including:

- In 2021, the EPA launched the *National Recycling Strategy: Part One of a Series on Building a Circular Economy for All*.<sup>34</sup> This strategy highlights the actions needed from all levels of government, industry, and other stakeholders to transform our recycling system.
- The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provided EPA with \$350 million in funding to support grant programs for solid waste management infrastructure and recycling education and outreach.
- In FY23, EPA expects to award close to \$140 million of the total \$350 million in the first round of IIJA grants to begin to implement the *National Recycling Strategy* and to improve solid waste management infrastructure, increase reuse, recycling and composting rates, and improve consumer education and outreach on recycling materials, including plastics.

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EPA is a global leader in efforts to address the challenges posed by plastic pollution, and we believe that by supporting efforts to build a circular economy and addressing plastics through the IIIA and the Save Our Seas Act 2.0, EPA's work will benefit the environment, the economy, and our most vulnerable communities. We look forward to working with you and continuing to make progress on this important issue.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Meredith Comnes in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [comnes.meredith@epa.gov](mailto:comnes.meredith@epa.gov) or (202) 564-3193.

Sincerely,



Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Nanette Diaz Barragán  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Barragán:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

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Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Meredith Comnes in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [comnes.meredith@epa.gov](mailto:comnes.meredith@epa.gov) or (202) 564-3193.

Sincerely,



Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Mike Levin  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Levin:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

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Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Meredith Comnes in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [comnes.meredith@epa.gov](mailto:comnes.meredith@epa.gov) or (202) 564-3193.

Sincerely,



Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Clarke:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

We are pleased to share EPA's Draft *National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution*.<sup>39</sup> This Strategy will identify the actions that are needed to help the United States achieve the goal to eliminate the discharge of plastics into the environment by 2040.

In addition to the Draft Strategy, EPA continues to work on various projects throughout the Agency to address threats to human health and the environment from plastic-related pollution, including:

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Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Meredith Comnes in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [comnes.meredith@epa.gov](mailto:comnes.meredith@epa.gov) or (202) 564-3193.

Sincerely,



Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Mary Gay Scanlon  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Scanlon:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

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- Moreover, over the next several months, EPA will release several Save Our Seas 2.0 Act reports for public comment, which will focus on opportunities for innovative uses of plastic waste, eliminating barriers to increase the collection of recyclable materials, promoting economic incentives to spur development of new end-use markets, and minimizing the creation of new plastic waste.
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Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Meredith Comnes in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [comnes.meredith@epa.gov](mailto:comnes.meredith@epa.gov) or (202) 564-3193.

Sincerely,



Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable James P. McGovern  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman McGovern:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

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Sincerely,

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Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Jill Tokuda  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Tokuda:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

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Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Meredith Comnes in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [comnes.meredith@epa.gov](mailto:comnes.meredith@epa.gov) or (202) 564-3193.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. N. Breen", followed by a horizontal line.

Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

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<sup>47</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/circulareconomy/draft-national-strategy-prevent-plastic-pollution>

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- Moreover, over the next several months, EPA will release several Save Our Seas 2.0 Act reports for public comment, which will focus on opportunities for innovative uses of plastic waste, eliminating barriers to increase the collection of recyclable materials, promoting economic incentives to spur development of new end-use markets, and minimizing the creation of new plastic waste.
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EPA is a global leader in efforts to address the challenges posed by plastic pollution, and we believe that by supporting efforts to build a circular economy and addressing plastics through the IIJA and the Save Our Seas Act 2.0, EPA's work will benefit the environment, the economy, and our most vulnerable communities. We look forward to working with you and continuing to make progress on this important issue.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Meredith Comnes in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [comnes.meredith@epa.gov](mailto:comnes.meredith@epa.gov) or (202) 564-3193.

Sincerely,



Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman DeSaulnier:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

We are pleased to share EPA's Draft *National Strategy Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution*.<sup>49</sup> This Strategy will identify the actions that are needed to help the United States achieve the goal to eliminate the discharge of plastics into the environment by 2040.

In addition to the Draft Strategy, EPA continues to work on various projects throughout the Agency to address threats to human health and the environment from plastic-related pollution, including:

- In 2021, the EPA launched the *National Recycling Strategy: Part One of a Series on Building a Circular Economy for All*.<sup>50</sup> This strategy highlights the actions needed from all levels of government, industry, and other stakeholders to transform our recycling system.
- The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provided EPA with \$350 million in funding to support grant programs for solid waste management infrastructure and recycling education and outreach.
- In FY23, EPA expects to award close to \$140 million of the total \$350 million in the first round of IIJA grants to begin to implement the *National Recycling Strategy* and to improve solid waste management infrastructure, increase reuse, recycling and composting rates, and improve consumer education and outreach on recycling materials, including plastics.

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<sup>49</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/circulareconomy/draft-national-strategy-prevent-plastic-pollution>

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EPA is a global leader in efforts to address the challenges posed by plastic pollution, and we believe that by supporting efforts to build a circular economy and addressing plastics through the IIJA and the Save Our Seas Act 2.0, EPA's work will benefit the environment, the economy, and our most vulnerable communities. We look forward to working with you and continuing to make progress on this important issue.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Meredith Comnes in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [comnes.meredith@epa.gov](mailto:comnes.meredith@epa.gov) or (202) 564-3193.

Sincerely,



Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Van Hollen:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

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Sincerely,

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Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Glenn Ivey  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Ivey:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

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EPA is a global leader in efforts to address the challenges posed by plastic pollution, and we believe that by supporting efforts to build a circular economy and addressing plastics through the IIIA and the Save Our Seas Act 2.0, EPA's work will benefit the environment, the economy, and our most vulnerable communities. We look forward to working with you and continuing to make progress on this important issue.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Meredith Comnes in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [comnes.meredith@epa.gov](mailto:comnes.meredith@epa.gov) or (202) 564-3193.

Sincerely,



Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Blumenauer:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

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Sincerely,



Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Jamie Raskin  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Raskin:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

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Sincerely,

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Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Kathy Castor  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Castor:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

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Sincerely,

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Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

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Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Mikie Sherrill  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Sherrill:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

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<sup>63</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/circulareconomy/draft-national-strategy-prevent-plastic-pollution>

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- Moreover, over the next several months, EPA will release several Save Our Seas 2.0 Act reports for public comment, which will focus on opportunities for innovative uses of plastic waste, eliminating barriers to increase the collection of recyclable materials, promoting economic incentives to spur development of new end-use markets, and minimizing the creation of new plastic waste.
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EPA is a global leader in efforts to address the challenges posed by plastic pollution, and we believe that by supporting efforts to build a circular economy and addressing plastics through the IIJA and the Save Our Seas Act 2.0, EPA's work will benefit the environment, the economy, and our most vulnerable communities. We look forward to working with you and continuing to make progress on this important issue.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Meredith Comnes in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [comnes.meredith@epa.gov](mailto:comnes.meredith@epa.gov) or (202) 564-3193.

Sincerely,



Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Bowman:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

We are pleased to share EPA's Draft *National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution*.<sup>65</sup> This Strategy will identify the actions that are needed to help the United States achieve the goal to eliminate the discharge of plastics into the environment by 2040.

In addition to the Draft Strategy, EPA continues to work on various projects throughout the Agency to address threats to human health and the environment from plastic-related pollution, including:

- In 2021, the EPA launched the *National Recycling Strategy: Part One of a Series on Building a Circular Economy for All*.<sup>66</sup> This strategy highlights the actions needed from all levels of government, industry, and other stakeholders to transform our recycling system.
- The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provided EPA with \$350 million in funding to support grant programs for solid waste management infrastructure and recycling education and outreach.
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EPA is a global leader in efforts to address the challenges posed by plastic pollution, and we believe that by supporting efforts to build a circular economy and addressing plastics through the IIJA and the Save Our Seas Act 2.0, EPA's work will benefit the environment, the economy, and our most vulnerable communities. We look forward to working with you and continuing to make progress on this important issue.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Meredith Comnes in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [comnes.meredith@epa.gov](mailto:comnes.meredith@epa.gov) or (202) 564-3193.

Sincerely,



Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable David J. Trone  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Trone:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

We are pleased to share EPA's Draft *National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution*.<sup>67</sup> This Strategy will identify the actions that are needed to help the United States achieve the goal to eliminate the discharge of plastics into the environment by 2040.

In addition to the Draft Strategy, EPA continues to work on various projects throughout the Agency to address threats to human health and the environment from plastic-related pollution, including:

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EPA is a global leader in efforts to address the challenges posed by plastic pollution, and we believe that by supporting efforts to build a circular economy and addressing plastics through the IIIA and the Save Our Seas Act 2.0, EPA's work will benefit the environment, the economy, and our most vulnerable communities. We look forward to working with you and continuing to make progress on this important issue.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Meredith Comnes in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [comnes.meredith@epa.gov](mailto:comnes.meredith@epa.gov) or (202) 564-3193.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. N. Breen", followed by a horizontal line.

Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Bonnie Watson Coleman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Coleman:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

We are pleased to share EPA's Draft *National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution*.<sup>69</sup> This Strategy will identify the actions that are needed to help the United States achieve the goal to eliminate the discharge of plastics into the environment by 2040.

In addition to the Draft Strategy, EPA continues to work on various projects throughout the Agency to address threats to human health and the environment from plastic-related pollution, including:

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- Moreover, over the next several months, EPA will release several Save Our Seas 2.0 Act reports for public comment, which will focus on opportunities for innovative uses of plastic waste, eliminating barriers to increase the collection of recyclable materials, promoting economic incentives to spur development of new end-use markets, and minimizing the creation of new plastic waste.
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EPA is a global leader in efforts to address the challenges posed by plastic pollution, and we believe that by supporting efforts to build a circular economy and addressing plastics through the IIJA and the Save Our Seas Act 2.0, EPA's work will benefit the environment, the economy, and our most vulnerable communities. We look forward to working with you and continuing to make progress on this important issue.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Meredith Comnes in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [comnes.meredith@epa.gov](mailto:comnes.meredith@epa.gov) or (202) 564-3193.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. N. Breen", followed by a horizontal line.

Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Jesus G. Garcia  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Garcia:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

We are pleased to share EPA's Draft *National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution*.<sup>71</sup> This Strategy will identify the actions that are needed to help the United States achieve the goal to eliminate the discharge of plastics into the environment by 2040.

In addition to the Draft Strategy, EPA continues to work on various projects throughout the Agency to address threats to human health and the environment from plastic-related pollution, including:

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Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Meredith Comnes in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [comnes.meredith@epa.gov](mailto:comnes.meredith@epa.gov) or (202) 564-3193.

Sincerely,



Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Barbara Lee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lee:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

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Sincerely,



Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Schakowsky:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. N. Breen", followed by a horizontal line.

Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. N. Breen", followed by a horizontal line.

Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Sara Jacobs  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Jacobs:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

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- In 2021, the EPA launched the *National Recycling Strategy: Part One of a Series on Building a Circular Economy for All*.<sup>80</sup> This strategy highlights the actions needed from all levels of government, industry, and other stakeholders to transform our recycling system.
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- In FY23, EPA expects to award close to \$140 million of the total \$350 million in the first round of IIJA grants to begin to implement the *National Recycling Strategy* and to improve solid waste management infrastructure, increase reuse, recycling and composting rates, and improve consumer education and outreach on recycling materials, including plastics.

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<sup>79</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/circulareconomy/draft-national-strategy-prevent-plastic-pollution>

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- Moreover, over the next several months, EPA will release several Save Our Seas 2.0 Act reports for public comment, which will focus on opportunities for innovative uses of plastic waste, eliminating barriers to increase the collection of recyclable materials, promoting economic incentives to spur development of new end-use markets, and minimizing the creation of new plastic waste.
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EPA is a global leader in efforts to address the challenges posed by plastic pollution, and we believe that by supporting efforts to build a circular economy and addressing plastics through the IIJA and the Save Our Seas Act 2.0, EPA's work will benefit the environment, the economy, and our most vulnerable communities. We look forward to working with you and continuing to make progress on this important issue.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Meredith Comnes in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [comnes.meredith@epa.gov](mailto:comnes.meredith@epa.gov) or (202) 564-3193.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. N. Breen", followed by a horizontal line.

Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

We are pleased to share EPA's Draft *National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution*.<sup>81</sup> This Strategy will identify the actions that are needed to help the United States achieve the goal to eliminate the discharge of plastics into the environment by 2040.

In addition to the Draft Strategy, EPA continues to work on various projects throughout the Agency to address threats to human health and the environment from plastic-related pollution, including:

- In 2021, the EPA launched the *National Recycling Strategy: Part One of a Series on Building a Circular Economy for All*.<sup>82</sup> This strategy highlights the actions needed from all levels of government, industry, and other stakeholders to transform our recycling system.
- The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provided EPA with \$350 million in funding to support grant programs for solid waste management infrastructure and recycling education and outreach.
- In FY23, EPA expects to award close to \$140 million of the total \$350 million in the first round of IIJA grants to begin to implement the *National Recycling Strategy* and to improve solid waste management infrastructure, increase reuse, recycling and composting rates, and improve consumer education and outreach on recycling materials, including plastics.

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- Moreover, over the next several months, EPA will release several Save Our Seas 2.0 Act reports for public comment, which will focus on opportunities for innovative uses of plastic waste, eliminating barriers to increase the collection of recyclable materials, promoting economic incentives to spur development of new end-use markets, and minimizing the creation of new plastic waste.
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EPA is a global leader in efforts to address the challenges posed by plastic pollution, and we believe that by supporting efforts to build a circular economy and addressing plastics through the IIJA and the Save Our Seas Act 2.0, EPA's work will benefit the environment, the economy, and our most vulnerable communities. We look forward to working with you and continuing to make progress on this important issue.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Meredith Comnes in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [comnes.meredith@epa.gov](mailto:comnes.meredith@epa.gov) or (202) 564-3193.

Sincerely,



Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Edward J. Markey  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

We are pleased to share EPA's Draft *National Strategy Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution*.<sup>83</sup> This Strategy will identify the actions that are needed to help the United States achieve the goal to eliminate the discharge of plastics into the environment by 2040.

In addition to the Draft Strategy, EPA continues to work on various projects throughout the Agency to address threats to human health and the environment from plastic-related pollution, including:

- In 2021, the EPA launched the *National Recycling Strategy: Part One of a Series on Building a Circular Economy for All*.<sup>84</sup> This strategy highlights the actions needed from all levels of government, industry, and other stakeholders to transform our recycling system.
- The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provided EPA with \$350 million in funding to support grant programs for solid waste management infrastructure and recycling education and outreach.
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- Moreover, over the next several months, EPA will release several Save Our Seas 2.0 Act reports for public comment, which will focus on opportunities for innovative uses of plastic waste, eliminating barriers to increase the collection of recyclable materials, promoting economic incentives to spur development of new end-use markets, and minimizing the creation of new plastic waste.
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EPA is a global leader in efforts to address the challenges posed by plastic pollution, and we believe that by supporting efforts to build a circular economy and addressing plastics through the IIJA and the Save Our Seas Act 2.0, EPA's work will benefit the environment, the economy, and our most vulnerable communities. We look forward to working with you and continuing to make progress on this important issue.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Meredith Comnes in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [comnes.meredith@epa.gov](mailto:comnes.meredith@epa.gov) or (202) 564-3193.

Sincerely,



Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Melanie Stansbury  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Stansbury:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

We are pleased to share EPA's Draft *National Strategy Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution*.<sup>85</sup> This Strategy will identify the actions that are needed to help the United States achieve the goal to eliminate the discharge of plastics into the environment by 2040.

In addition to the Draft Strategy, EPA continues to work on various projects throughout the Agency to address threats to human health and the environment from plastic-related pollution, including:

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- In FY23, EPA expects to award close to \$140 million of the total \$350 million in the first round of IIJA grants to begin to implement the *National Recycling Strategy* and to improve solid waste management infrastructure, increase reuse, recycling and composting rates, and improve consumer education and outreach on recycling materials, including plastics.

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- Moreover, over the next several months, EPA will release several Save Our Seas 2.0 Act reports for public comment, which will focus on opportunities for innovative uses of plastic waste, eliminating barriers to increase the collection of recyclable materials, promoting economic incentives to spur development of new end-use markets, and minimizing the creation of new plastic waste.
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EPA is a global leader in efforts to address the challenges posed by plastic pollution, and we believe that by supporting efforts to build a circular economy and addressing plastics through the IIIA and the Save Our Seas Act 2.0, EPA's work will benefit the environment, the economy, and our most vulnerable communities. We look forward to working with you and continuing to make progress on this important issue.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Meredith Comnes in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [comnes.meredith@epa.gov](mailto:comnes.meredith@epa.gov) or (202) 564-3193.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. N. Breen", followed by a horizontal line.

Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Grace Meng  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Meng:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

We are pleased to share EPA's Draft *National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution*.<sup>87</sup> This Strategy will identify the actions that are needed to help the United States achieve the goal to eliminate the discharge of plastics into the environment by 2040.

In addition to the Draft Strategy, EPA continues to work on various projects throughout the Agency to address threats to human health and the environment from plastic-related pollution, including:

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- Moreover, over the next several months, EPA will release several Save Our Seas 2.0 Act reports for public comment, which will focus on opportunities for innovative uses of plastic waste, eliminating barriers to increase the collection of recyclable materials, promoting economic incentives to spur development of new end-use markets, and minimizing the creation of new plastic waste.
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Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Meredith Comnes in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [comnes.meredith@epa.gov](mailto:comnes.meredith@epa.gov) or (202) 564-3193.

Sincerely,



Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Katie Porter  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Porter:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

We are pleased to share EPA's Draft *National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution*.<sup>89</sup> This Strategy will identify the actions that are needed to help the United States achieve the goal to eliminate the discharge of plastics into the environment by 2040.

In addition to the Draft Strategy, EPA continues to work on various projects throughout the Agency to address threats to human health and the environment from plastic-related pollution, including:

- In 2021, the EPA launched the *National Recycling Strategy: Part One of a Series on Building a Circular Economy for All*.<sup>90</sup> This strategy highlights the actions needed from all levels of government, industry, and other stakeholders to transform our recycling system.
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- Moreover, over the next several months, EPA will release several Save Our Seas 2.0 Act reports for public comment, which will focus on opportunities for innovative uses of plastic waste, eliminating barriers to increase the collection of recyclable materials, promoting economic incentives to spur development of new end-use markets, and minimizing the creation of new plastic waste.
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Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Meredith Comnes in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [comnes.meredith@epa.gov](mailto:comnes.meredith@epa.gov) or (202) 564-3193.

Sincerely,

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Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Ed Case  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Case:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

We are pleased to share EPA's Draft *National Strategy Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution*.<sup>91</sup> This Strategy will identify the actions that are needed to help the United States achieve the goal to eliminate the discharge of plastics into the environment by 2040.

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Sincerely,



Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warren:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. N. Breen", followed by a horizontal line.

Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator





## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2023

OFFICE OF  
LAND AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Cori Bush  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Bush:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand our efforts to address plastic production. We share your interest in reducing overreliance on the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products, as well as in minimizing pollution across the life cycle of all plastic products.

We are pleased to share EPA's Draft *National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution*.<sup>95</sup> This Strategy will identify the actions that are needed to help the United States achieve the goal to eliminate the discharge of plastics into the environment by 2040.

In addition to the Draft Strategy, EPA continues to work on various projects throughout the Agency to address threats to human health and the environment from plastic-related pollution, including:

- In 2021, the EPA launched the *National Recycling Strategy: Part One of a Series on Building a Circular Economy for All*.<sup>96</sup> This strategy highlights the actions needed from all levels of government, industry, and other stakeholders to transform our recycling system.
- The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provided EPA with \$350 million in funding to support grant programs for solid waste management infrastructure and recycling education and outreach.
- In FY23, EPA expects to award close to \$140 million of the total \$350 million in the first round of IIJA grants to begin to implement the *National Recycling Strategy* and to improve solid waste management infrastructure, increase reuse, recycling and composting rates, and improve consumer education and outreach on recycling materials, including plastics.

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<sup>95</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/circulareconomy/draft-national-strategy-prevent-plastic-pollution>

<sup>96</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/circulareconomy/national-recycling-strategy>

- Moreover, over the next several months, EPA will release several Save Our Seas 2.0 Act reports for public comment, which will focus on opportunities for innovative uses of plastic waste, eliminating barriers to increase the collection of recyclable materials, promoting economic incentives to spur development of new end-use markets, and minimizing the creation of new plastic waste.
- EPA's Trash Free Waters program is implementing a pilot project, in partnership with NGOs, academics, and private partners, to launch reusable foodware systems in four smaller cities around the United States. The pilot is providing technical and financial assistance. Lessons learned from this project will be shared with other cities.
- The Agency is currently considering the comments received on a provision to remove pyrolysis/combustion units from the definition of "municipal waste combustion units" that was included in the 2020 proposed Other Solid Waste Incineration rule, and we intend to issue a future supplemental notice.
- Under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), EPA is evaluating the risk of several chemicals used as plasticizers, including seven phthalate chemicals. Should EPA determine that any of these chemicals present an unreasonable risk, EPA will issue a risk management rule to address such risk. In addition, recognizing that people may be exposed to more than one plasticizer chemical at the same time, EPA has submitted for independent, expert review a framework for conducting a cumulative risk assessment on six of the seven phthalate chemicals undergoing TSCA evaluation where common characteristics have been identified.

EPA is a global leader in efforts to address the challenges posed by plastic pollution, and we believe that by supporting efforts to build a circular economy and addressing plastics through the IIJA and the Save Our Seas Act 2.0, EPA's work will benefit the environment, the economy, and our most vulnerable communities. We look forward to working with you and continuing to make progress on this important issue.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Meredith Comnes in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [comnes.meredith@epa.gov](mailto:comnes.meredith@epa.gov) or (202) 564-3193.

Sincerely,



Barry N. Breen  
Acting Assistant Administrator